IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

: 10/708,718

Confirmation No.: 2717

Applicant:

: Paul R. Hickert

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Filed:

: March 19, 2004

Art Unit

: 3727

Examiner

: Unassigned

APR - 2 2004

Docket No.

: 1480.01

Customer No.

: 21901

For

: Air Barrier Device for Protecting Liquid Fluids in

Opened Containers

Faxed to Technology Center 3700 at (703) 872-9302 Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Introductory Comments

Sir:

The above-identified patent application is amended a first time prior to examination as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.